

Vote NO on SB 6668 and SB 1178

DURCO MANUFACTURING COMPANY, INC.

Before the Labor and Public Employees Committee Hartford, CT

March 9, 2023

Testifying in opposition to:

SB 6668: An Act Modernizing the Paid Sick Day Statutes

SB 1178: An Act Expanding Connecticut Paid Sick Days

Senator Kushner, Representative Sanchez, and members of the Labor and Public Employees Committee. My name is Barb Ek and I am the Owner of DURCO. We have been in business for 30 years and currently have eight employees. I am writing today in opposition to SB 6668 and SB 1178. We urge the committee to reject yet another burden on our business by opposing SB 6668 and SB 1178. **Stop please.**

Connecticut currently has a paid sick leave law that applies to businesses with 50 or more employees that employ a list of occupations called "service workers". Service workers can earn 1 hour of paid leave for each 40 hours worked, maxing out at 40 hours per year. The law also exempts manufacturers and non-profits.

Both SB 6668 and SB 1178 would now extend the program to every employee at every employer in the state, expand the number of family members eligible, eliminate exemptions for manufacturers and non-profits, and provide penalties for failure to keep accurate records, and in some cases, Civil penalties as well.

Extending the paid leave program to every employer in the state, at a time when we're coming out of a global pandemic, and many companies still are struggling to survive the financial devastation due to the COVID pandemic is shortsighted. This is yet again another burden on businesses small and large. Between supply chain issues, workforce shortages, inflation, and rising healthcare costs, **WE ARE already doing all we can to keep up with a difficult business environment just trying to survive and thrive.**

Since taking effect in 2012, those subject to the new law saw a cost increase of 2-5%, with NO tangible data that shows less employee turnover or illness in the workplace.

This added expense to the already stated employer issues that every business is facing will only compound the issue.

Why are we doing this to Connecticut businesses? How many more companies will this law force to leave Connecticut or shut down operations here? **WE, both small and large companies throughout CONNECTICUT, are the backbone to our economy and workforce - WE put our employees at the forefront of everything we do.**

ASIDE FROM THAT - We already have the most generous paid family and medical leave program in the entire nation. **PLEASE OPPOSE THESE BILLS.**

Thank you for your time.

Best Regards,

Barb Ek, Owner/CEO